

Comment on Status and Current Content of Drafts of Chapters of the State Water Plan,
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Current drafts of chapters of the Water Plan contain valuable educational material and extensive discussions of the complex management of water by and for its many uses and users. However, the Plan will not be viable unless it draws conclusions, as required by law, regarding the 2030 water supply needed to meet the needs of the 2030 population, and unless it proposes measures which can collectively provide the water to meet those needs. Current drafts of the Plan do not do this.

Each chapter should explain how it contributed to quantifying this determination of needed water and measures to supply it.

The plan must not conclude that forecasting will not be attempted because it is too difficult; it must not suggest that it is not feasible to provide the water supply needed to provide food, housing, goods and services, etc; and it must not prejudge that the public will not be willing to pay whatever it costs to meet these needs and thereby maintain our standard of living. The Plan must provide the public and legislature with an understanding of how much water will be needed; when it will be needed as the population grows; and when various water supply measures must be initiated in order for water to be available when needed. The public and the legislature will then have the information to decide whether to increase water supply in a timely manner and to pay whatever it costs, or whether to let our children bear the consequences of our failure to do so.